

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 ARA-10 /123 W
-----076244 160831Z /20

R 151515Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 414
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, NI, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DELEGATION URGES BROADENING OF SHABA SECURITY FORCE

REF: A) KINSHASA 6226; B) KINSHASA 5632; C) KINSHASA 5993

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 12 - 14 VISIT TO ZAIRE BY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER GHALI PRODUCED LITTLE NEWS BUT DID RESULT IN A BRIEF
MEETING WITH MOBUTU AND AN EGYPTIAN PITCH TO AMBASSADOR CUTLER
THAT US TAKE THE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING ANGLOPHONE AFRICANS TO
JOIN SHABA SECURITY FORCE. END SUMMARY

2. STATING UPON ARRIVAL THAT HE WAS THE BEARER OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU, GHALI PREDICTABLY PROCLAIMED

HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR ZAIRIAN EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITS
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND COMBAT "INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSION."
IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT GHALI ADDED AN OBLIQUE GESTURE OF SUPPORT
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FOR ZAIRE'S ATTACK ON CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS (REF A)
BY AGREEING THAT THE FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN BELGRADE
SHOULD ADDRESS THE CUBAN QUESTION.

3. GHALI MANAGED TO SEE MOBUTU BRIEFLY AT HIS COUNTRY RETREAT IN
GBADOLITE, DESPITE PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT MEETING COULD NOT BE
ARRANGED. APPARENTLY MEETING WENT WELL, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO READ-

OUT OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED. MEMBERS OF GHALI'S DELEGATION CONFIRMED TO US THAT EGYPTIAN ARTILLERY AND INSTRUCTORS WILL ARRIVE IN ZAIRE AS SOON AS TRANSPORT FROM EQUIPMENT'S PRESENT LOCATION IN RABAT CAN BE ARRANGED.

4. DURING DINNERS FOR GHALI JUNE 12 AND 13, GOB CHIEF OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS SIDKI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION MADE POINT OF EXPRESSING TO AMBASSADOR THEIR VIEW THAT SHABA SECURITY FORCE SHOULD BE EXPANDED BEYOND PRESENT FRANCOPHONE COMPOSITION, NOTABLY TO INCLUDE ANGOLPHONE AFRICANS. SIDKI CLAIMED THAT EGYPTIANS HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION WHILE IN LAGOS THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT FELT SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND AT LEAST A TOKEN FORCE TO SHABA IF URGED TO DO SO. SIDKI THOUGHT THE US WAS IN THE BEST POSITION TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH NIGERIANS AND HOPED WE WOULD. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE GHANA AND PERHAPS LIBERIA WOULD FOLLOW NIGERIA'S LEAD. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ARGUMENT.

5. AMBASSADOR ASKED SIDKI IF HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A MORE USEFUL ROLE FOR NIGERIA WOULD BE AS AN EVENTUAL MEDIATOR BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, AND THAT SENDING TROOPS TO SHABA COULD COMPROMISE THAT ROLE. SIDKI REPLIED THAT THIS NEED NOT BE THE CASE, SINCE IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT NIGERIA ALREADY HAS HAD MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ANGOLA.

6. COMMENT: ABOVE IS PASSED ON FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE HERE OF WHETHER NIGERIANS DID IN FACT GIVE ANY INDICATION
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OF A WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR RE NIGERIAN VIEWS, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY DID.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA06289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780251-0875
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780657/aaaabwpl.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f9b6088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 6226, 78 KINSHASA 5632, 78 KINSHASA 5993
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2341940
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN DELEGATION URGES BROADENING OF SHABA SECURITY FORCE
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, NI, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f9b6088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014